

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 IOE-00

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P R 031645Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3406

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF UNRWA XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA FUNDING

REFS: A. AMMAN 2027; B. BEIRUT 3511 (NOTAL)

1. IN DISCUSSION APR 2 WITH EMBOFF, ACTING UNRWA COM
GEN MCELHINEY SAID AGENCY HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN
INFORMED THAT UNRWA FINANCIAL CRISIS WAS BROACHED AT ARAB
FOREIGN MINISTERS CONF IN CAIRO IN LATE MARCH. MORE CATE-
GORICALLY, MCELHINEY STATED THAT UNRWA HAS HAD NO RPT NO
INDICATION FROM ANY SOURCE SINCE MAR 21 ADCOM MEETING
THAT ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FROM ARABS
OR OTHERS. HE REPORTED THAT COMGEN CABLED ARAB LEAGUE SYG
RIAD AT ABOUT TIME OF ADCOM MEETING RE AGENCY'S FINANCIAL
PLIGHT AND HAD CONFIRMATION THAT UNTSO COMMUNICATIONS
CLERK HAD DELIVERED MESSAGE, BUT COMGEN HAS RECEIVED NO
REPLY TO DATE. LIKEWISE, UNDP REP IN SAUDI ARABIA WHO
HANDLING FOLLOW--UP TO UNSYG'S EARLIER APPEAL HAS NOT REPORTED
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ANY PROGRESS IN OBTAINING SIGNIFICANT SAG CONTRIBUTION.

2. MCELHINEY SAID THAT COMGEN, FOLLOWING LAST ADCOM MEETING, SENT LETTER TO UNSYG ENCLOSING ADCOM RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FURTHER SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS, BUT NO REPLY BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT YET RECEIVED. COMGEN RENNIE, WHO CURRENTLY IN EUROPE WHERE HE HAS MET WITH EEC OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS, SCHEDULED TO MEET UNSYG IN ROME TODAY (APR 3) AND BETTER IDEA OF UNSYG'S STRATEGY WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING MEETING. COMGEN EXPECTED RETURN BEIRUT APR 10.

3. MCELHINEY SAID THER NOTHING IN WIND TO CHANGE COMGEN'S DETERMINATION INTRODUCE CUTS IN RATIONS EFFECTIVE MAY 1 RPT MAY 1. SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN FORM OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OR, AT MINIMUM, FIRM PLEDGES WILL HAVE TO OCCUR SOONEST TO PERMIT UNRWA TO RECONSIDER THIS DECISION. MCELHINEY SAID COMGEN, PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE, WAS UNDECIDED ON HOW TO HANDLE PROJECTED RATIONS REDUCTIONS, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF RECONVENING ADCOM DURING APRIL TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT. EMBOFF QUESTIONED UTILITY THIS MEASURE SINCE HOST GOVTS AND POSSIBLE OTHERS NOT LIKELY AGREE WITH LOGIC OF COMGEN'S DECISION. (COMMENT: BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES RECONVENED ADCOM AT THIS TIME COULD CAUSE USG, RECOMMEND WE DISCREETLY LOBBY WITH COMGEN TO AVOID REOPENING ADCOM FORUM. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE GRAPHICALLY SPELLED OUT IN MAR 21 ADCOM MEETING AND WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE TO FURTHER ADCOM CONSIDERATION IF FINANCIAL RELIEF NOT FORTHCOMING. END COMMENT.)

4. MCELHINEY TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSION OF UNRWA DEFICIT WITH COMGEN, THEY HAD AGREED THAT USG, PARTICULARLY IF ADDITIONAL DOS 6 MILLION FORTHCOMING, HAD DONE ITS FULL SHARE AND THEY HAVE NO RPT NO INTENTION OF APPROACHING USG FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE. IF PROJECTED DEFICIT IS TO BE MADE UP, THEY FORESEE NO POSSIBLE SOURCES EXCEPT FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES FROM WEALTHY ARAB STATES--A DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, WHICH COULD ENHANCE AGENCY'S ABILITY TO PUT THE BITE ON EEC TO INCREASE ITS FUNDING SOMEWHAT. GODLEY
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